



April 13, 1945

On May 11, the Rural Electrification Administration will complete ten years of financing rural power systems to provide service to consumers in previously un-electrified rural areas. In that time, the REA program has established a record in which we can all take pride -- because it has shown that rural people can build their own electric systems and operate them successfully.

When REA was established back in 1935, only about one farm in ten was receiving service from a rural power line. Now, nearly half of all U.S. farms are electrified. The number of electrified farms has increased from 750,000 in 1935, to approximately 2,700,000 in 1945, largely due to the stimulation provided by the REA lending program.

REA borrowers now operate 420,000 miles of power lines serving nearly 1,000,000 farms and 250,000 other rural consumers in 46 states, Alaska and the Virgin Islands. In the last two years, 170,000 farms have been connected to REA-financed lines under the War Production Board's wartime emergency service regulations authorizing the extension of lines to farms able to use electrical equipment in livestock, dairy and poultry production.

Congress to date has authorized \$525,428,288 for loans for rural electrification. Of this amount, more than \$520,000,000 has been allotted by REA as loans and \$415,000,000 has been advanced on allotted loans to borrowers. REA loan allotments have been made to 833 cooperatives, 54 public bodies and 19 private utilities. Eight hundred twenty-nine of these borrowers have facilities in operation.

The REA borrowers have paid \$90,000,000 in principal and interest on their loans. More than \$18,000,000 of this amount was paid on principal in advance of the repayment dates specified in the borrowers' REA loan contracts. Delinquencies on REA loans, consisting of principal and interest more than 30 days overdue, amount to only about one-half of one per cent of the principal and interest due and payable.

REA borrowers have made plans to extend service to an additional 1,300,000 rural consumers within three years after materials and manpower become available for large scale rural power line construction. This post-war program is contingent upon further authorizations of loan funds by Congress.

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ATTENTION: 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

We believe that 4-H Club boys and girls on our lines will find it worthwhile to enter the 1945 Better Farm-and-Home Methods Electric Contest. This contest emphasizes better methods of doing jobs and chores on the farm and in the home, and you may discover ways to save time and work on your regular 4-H Club projects. You also may discover ways to make your projects more profitable.

The contest is conducted cooperatively by the Extension Services of the State Agricultural Colleges and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. For details, see your county agent. Your cooperative office will give you any assistance you may need in using electricity to simplify farm and home work.

A large manufacturing company is providing prizes for the contest. A gold and silver pin will be given to each county winner. State winners will receive all-expense-paid trips to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago next December. A \$200 scholarship will be awarded to each of the six national winners to be selected at Chicago.

REA headquarters in St. Louis has been advised that Better Farm-and-Home Methods Electric Contests will be held in 45 states. Both boys and girls may enter the contest, except in Florida and Arkansas, where the contest is open only to boys.

(Note: REA has not been advised whether the contest will be held in California, Illinois and Pennsylvania. This story should be used in these states only upon receipt of authoritative information that the contest will be held.)



#### PLAY SAFE WITH ELECTRIC FENCING

A study of 25 home-made fence installations, in a single state, as reported by C. L. Hamilton of the National Safety Council, shows that in their first year of use they killed a 3-year-old boy, a dog, a horse, a bull, and nine hogs. Tragedies of this nature will continue until all unsafe electric fence equipment and practices are discarded. The highest current which is safe for women is about one-tenth that permitted by a  $7\frac{1}{2}$ -watt bulb, and children are even more sensitive.

To be safe, each fence must have an approved controller. This controller must reduce the current well below the safe maximum, and limit the duration of the shock to a fraction of a second. Even well-manufactured controllers must be installed correctly and used carefully. Simple precautions in selecting, installing and using electric fence controllers will eliminate needless tragedies and the loss of valuable livestock.

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#### MORE MEAT CHICKENS ARE NEEDED

In a recent announcement, Economic Stabilization Director William H. Davis disclosed that producers' price ceilings had been increased an average of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cents a pound for broilers, fryers and roasters. This increase is intended to encourage production of more poultry for marketing during the summer of 1945 and thus help make up for the shortage of other meats during that period.

Poultry raisers on our lines can help meet the urgent need for more poultry by making the best possible use of their electric brooders to increase production. If you need an electric brooder, there are a few manufactured brooders on the market. You also can build a home-made brooder from the REA plans we have available in the office. One of these brooders ordinarily can be built in half a day.

If you have an electric brooder that is not in use, you can help by arranging for a neighbor to use it.

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#### THE LINE CONSTRUCTION PROBLEM

We are doing all we can to speed the construction of extensions to you members who have qualified for service under the War Production Board's wartime emergency service regulations. However, we are confronted with problems beyond our control in obtaining delivery on materials to build lines.

The amount of critical materials available for civilian use has been limited since the war. At the time of the German break-through into Belgium, Army and Navy officials requested that a greater portion of these materials be set aside, and no easing of restrictions is likely until after V-E Day.

The shortage of poles is a major obstacle and is due mainly to scarcities of labor to cut poles and to handle them in the treating plants. Transportation difficulties also delay pole deliveries to some extent.

Throughout the country, REA-financed systems are able to construct only part of the extensions that would be built in normal times. Most of them have long lists of qualified members who must wait for service until construction materials can be obtained.

We ask you to be patient in this matter. Your extension will be built as soon as possible.

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#### ELECTRIC MILK COOLERS

Electric milk coolers can help prevent the loss of fluid milk by reducing spoilage. On some farms, an electric milk cooler will save enough milk to pay the entire cost of electric service. An electric milk cooler also may make it possible to sell fluid milk at better prices.

If you plan to use an electric milk cooler this summer, we suggest that you start looking for one now. Only a limited number are being manufactured and you may be unable to obtain one at the last minute.

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